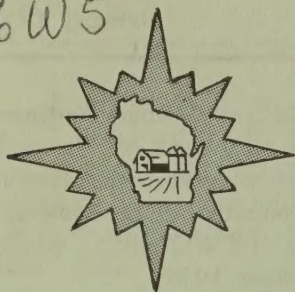


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. VII, NO. 3

January 1975

Cream of the News

Wholesale prices of dairy products declined substantially from November to December.

The preliminary estimate of Wisconsin's milk production for 1974 indicates a decline of 1 percent from 1973 and the lowest annual output in five years.

According to the January Prospective Plantings survey, farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation intend to hold corn acreage for 1975 near the 1974 level.

Cattle and calves on feed January 1 in the Nation's 23 major feeding states were 26 percent below a year earlier and the lowest for that date since 1965.

The index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products as of mid-December was down 1 percent from the previous month.

Adverse weather conditions in 1974 sharply reduced Wisconsin's corn and soybean crops.

Farm numbers in Wisconsin as of January 1 were estimated at 104,000, down 1,000 from a year ago and the same rate of decline as in the previous three years.

Production of beef and pork in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during November was up from a year earlier.

Good grade feeder steer prices at the Kansas City market in December were the lowest for that month in ten years.

The Nation's stocks of butter and cheese in cold storage at the end of December were above a year ago but meat stocks were lower for the first time since October 31, 1973.

Weekly estimates for December indicated that butter production in the Nation would continue above the previous year but output of American cheese could be down.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in December are expected to be 23 cents per hundredweight lower than in November.

MILK PRICES LOWER IN DECEMBER

Wisconsin dairy farmers are expected to receive an average of \$7.31 a hundredweight for all milk of average test delivered to plants and dealers in December. This would be 23 cents lower than the previous month and \$1.22 under December 1973.

Milk prices for November averaged \$7.54 a hundredweight, down 1 cent from October and 75 cents below a year earlier. The average milkfat content for November was 3.91 percent compared with 3.86 percent in November 1973.

Market grade milk averaged \$7.80 a hundredweight in November, an increase of 6 cents from a month earlier but 58 cents less than the previous year. Milk of manufacturing grade averaged \$7.14 a hundredweight during November, down 12 cents from October and \$1.02 below a year earlier. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 66 cents for November compared with 22 cents in November 1973.

A preliminary average of the monthly prices shows that Wisconsin farmers received \$7.68 a hundredweight for all milk sold in 1974. This was 97 cents above the 1973 average and the eleventh consecutive year that the annual milk price

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	October 1974		November price per cwt.			Dec. 1974 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1973	1974	74/73 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.88	7.55	8.29	7.54	- 9	7.31
Minnesota	3.73	6.95	7.87	7.09	- 10	6.86
Iowa	3.76	7.25	8.19	7.33	- 11	7.50
New York	3.70	8.60	8.92	8.65	- 3	8.25
California	3.64	8.60	7.84	8.90	+ 14	9.10
United States	3.75	8.26	8.66	8.44	- 3	8.35
Wis. utilization						
Market milk	3.88	7.74	8.38	7.80	- 7	XXX
Manufacturing milk	3.87	7.26	8.16	7.14	- 12	XXX
Creameries	3.85	7.23	8.14	7.20	- 12	XXX
Cheese factories	3.87	7.27	8.16	7.14	- 12	XXX
Varied prod. plants	3.87	7.23	8.12	7.09	- 13	XXX

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

222-1-75

WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

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Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Nov. 1973	Oct. 1974	Nov. 1974 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	7.52	6.81	6.75	- 10
Market milk	7.58	6.98	6.97	- 8
Manufacturing milk	7.42	6.57	6.42	- 13
Creameries	7.35	6.57	6.51	- 11
American cheese plants	7.42	6.41	6.57	- 11
Varied products plants	7.39	6.54	6.38	- 14
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . . .	7.98	7.30	7.41	- 7

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

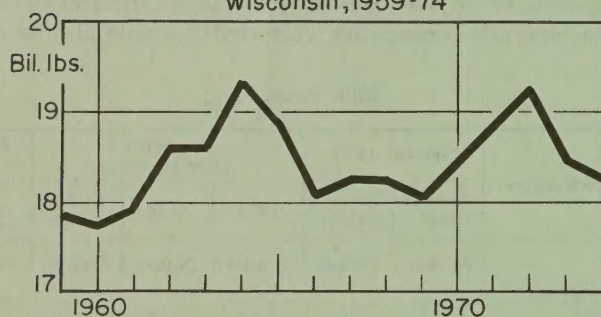
exceeded the previous year. Milk prices during 1974 peaked at \$8.71 a hundredweight in March, then declined by \$1.94 in the next four months before increasing seasonally.

1974 MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

The preliminary estimate of Wisconsin's milk production for 1974 was 18,272 million pounds, a decline of 1 percent from 1973 and the lowest annual output in five years. The Nation's milk production for 1974 was estimated at 114,857 million pounds, also about 1 percent below 1973. Wisconsin produced 16 percent of the National milk supply in 1974.

Monthly milk production in Wisconsin during 1974 was below the previous year except for August through October. Output per cow in 1974 was under 1973 until June and then equaled or exceeded 1973 for the remainder of the year. The annual production of milk per cow for 1974 was just

MILK PRODUCTION
Wisconsin, 1959-74



— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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slightly higher than in 1973 but milk cow numbers continued to decline. There were 1,786,000 milk cows on Wisconsin farms in December, down 11,000 from a year earlier. Production per cow in December at 785 pounds was the same as a year ago but the total milk output of 1,402 million pounds was nearly 1 percent below December 1973.

Wisconsin farmers reported feeding an average of 11.1 pounds of grain and other concentrates per milk cow on January 1, 1975 compared with 12.4 pounds a year earlier. The Nation's farmers were feeding an average of 12.8 pounds of grain and other concentrates per milk cow on January 1, down from 13.1 pounds a year ago.

Milk Production

Selected States	December 1973	December 1974	Jan.-Dec. 1974	Change from last year	
				Dec.	Jan.-Dec.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,411	1,402	18,272	- 1	- 1
Minnesota	743	745	9,397	n. c.	n. c.
Iowa	286	275	3,650	- 4	- 10
New York	765	774	9,808	+ 1	+ 1
Pennsylvania	552	551	6,788	n. c.	+ 1
California	830	836	10,624	+ 1	+ 3
Other states	4,437	4,415	56,328	n. c.	- 1
United States	9,024	8,998	114,857	n. c.	- 1

WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES DECLINE SUBSTANTIALLY

Wholesale prices of dairy products declined substantially from November to December. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 72.62 cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets during December, down more than 5 cents from November and well below the December 1973 average of 88¼ cents a pound.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 98¼ cents a pound in December, a decline of almost 3 cents from the previous month but the same as a year earlier.

Wholesale prices of 92-score butter at the New York market averaged 67.31 cents a pound for December, a drop of over 3 cents from November and more than 7 cents under December 1973.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	December 1973	November 1974	December 1974 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	74.36¢	70.50¢	67.31¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . .	88.25¢	77.77¢	72.62¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	98.75¢	101.63¢	98.75¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$10.95-11.51	\$11.90-12.53	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	52.03¢	56.94¢	56.74¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

CHEESE AND BUTTER STOCKS CONTINUE HIGHER

Total cheese in cold storage in the Nation at the end of December amounted to 485 million pounds, up 36 percent from a year earlier and the highest for that date since 1955. Stocks of American cheese at 412 million pounds were 42 percent greater than on December 31, 1973. Swiss cheese in cold storage at the end of 1974 was 13 percent above a year ago and all other cheese stocks were up 7 percent.

The Nation's stocks of butter in cold storage on December 31, 1974 totaled 50 million pounds, an increase of 9 percent from a year earlier. Government stocks of butter amounted to only 14 million pounds, down 38 percent from the previous year and the lowest for a December 31 date since 1966.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1972	Dec. 31, 1973	Dec. 31, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	107,470	46,379	50,437	+ 9
Cheese, American	269,438	290,299	412,321	+ 42
Cheese, Swiss	8,122	13,393	15,171	+ 13
Cheese, all other	53,884	54,116	57,928	+ 7
Cheese, total	331,444	357,808	485,420	+ 36
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	4,111	1,286	3,371	+ 162
Cheese, American	176,795	170,482	224,605	+ 32
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	96,393	22,831	14,144	- 38
Cheese, American	183	406	934	+ 130

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1972	Nov. 30, 1973	Nov. 30, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	4,695	7,041	5,422	- 23
Dried skim milk	35,660	65,138	130,131	+ 100
Dried buttermilk	2,521	4,075	4,833	+ 19
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/	104,065	75,241	100,971	+ 34

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX LOWER IN DECEMBER

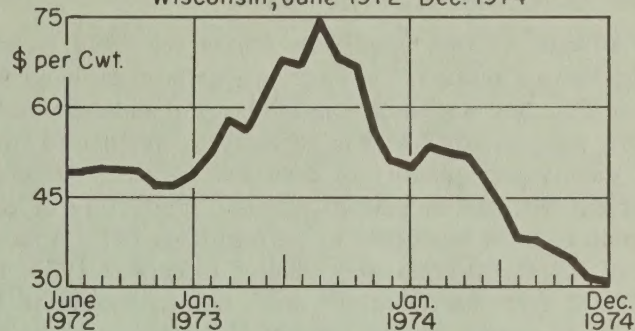
The index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products as of mid-December was down 6 points (1 percent) from the previous month. Declines for milk, cattle, calves, corn, wheat, and soybeans offset increases for poultry, hogs, sheep and lambs, oats, and hay. At 475 percent of the 1910-14 base the index of prices received was 13 percent below December 15, 1973.

Milk cows averaged \$440.00 each for December, down \$15.00 from November and \$175.00 under a year earlier. This was the eighth consecutive month of lower prices for milk cows. Cull cows averaged only \$16.50 a hundredweight in December, a decline of 40 cents from the previous month and \$12.80 less than a year ago. Prices for cull cows averaged the lowest since January 1969.

Steers and heifers dropped 20 cents from November to December. At \$29.80 a hundredweight for mid-December, steers and heifers were \$4.60 below a year earlier and the lowest in three years. Calf prices declined for the tenth consecutive month and were at their lowest figure since January 1968. Calves averaged \$30.20 a hundredweight as of December 15, down \$1.40 from November and \$20.80 below December 1973.

CALF PRICES

Wisconsin, June 1972 - Dec. 1974



Hogs increased \$2.00 from November to December. At \$38.00 a hundredweight, hogs were 40 cents more than December 1973 and the first time above the previous year since February 1974.

Sheep went up 20 cents from November to December for the first increase in nine months. However, at \$5.30 a hundredweight in December sheep were well below the \$10.00 average of a year earlier. Lambs averaged \$34.10 a hundredweight for mid-December, up \$3.10 from the previous month and \$2.60 higher than December 1973.

Egg prices rose 3½ cents a dozen from November to December but at slightly more than 52 cents a dozen were nearly 9 cents under a year ago. Turkeys averaged 36 cents a pound liveweight in December, a gain of 5 cents from November and the highest price for 1974.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Dec. 15, 1972	Dec. 15, 1973	Nov. 15, 1974	Dec. 15, 1974
		Dollars			
Milk cows	Head	485.00	615.00	455.00	440.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	34.20	34.40	30.00	29.80
Cows	Cwt.	25.70	29.30	16.90	16.50
Calves	Cwt.	47.20	51.00	31.60	30.20
Hogs	Cwt.	28.00	37.60	36.00	38.00
Sheep	Cwt.	6.30	10.00	5.10	5.30
Lambs	Cwt.	26.70	31.50	31.00	34.10
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.095	.195	.105	.130
Turkeys	Lb.	.240	.370	.310	.360
Eggs	Doz.	.400	.610	.488	.523
Corn	Bu.	1.30	2.43	3.40	3.31
Wheat	Bu.	2.01	4.66	4.41	4.26
Oats	Bu.	.86	1.34	1.56	1.59
Soybeans	Bu.	3.70	5.58	7.41	6.91
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	33.00	30.50	32.00	37.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Corn prices declined for the second straight month after reaching a peak of \$3.58 a bushel in October. Corn averaged \$3.31 a bushel for mid-December, down 9 cents from a month earlier but 88 cents above a year ago. Soybeans averaged \$6.91 a bushel in December, a decline of 50 cents from November but \$1.33 more than December 1973.

Oats increased 3 cents a bushel from November to December. At \$1.59 a bushel as of December 15, oats equaled the record high set in October and was 25 cents higher than a year ago. Wheat averaged \$4.26 a bushel in December, down 15 cents from November and 40 cents below December 1973.

Baled alfalfa hay rose \$5.00 a ton from November to December. At \$37.00 a ton in mid-December, baled alfalfa hay was \$6.50 above a year earlier and equaled the record high of January 1973.

CORN AND SOYBEAN CROPS DOWN CONSIDERABLY IN 1974

Adverse weather conditions during the 1974 growing season sharply reduced the corn and soybean crops in Wisconsin. Cold and wet conditions in May, hot and dry weather in July, and an early freeze in September combined to affect both quality and quantity of corn and soybeans. Despite a 9 percent increase in planted acreage, production of corn for grain in 1974 was down 11 percent from 1973. A record high of 3,490,000 acres were planted to corn in 1974. The 2,270,000 acres harvested for grain ranked second to the 1971 grain acreage but the yield of 68 bushels per acre was the poorest since 1960. Silage was cut from 1,090,000 acres, an increase of 40,000 acres from 1973 but production was down 4 percent as the yield of 9.4 tons per acre was the lowest since 1958.

Production of soybeans in 1974 was 28 percent lower than 1973 as less acreage was planted and yields declined.

Harvested acreage of soybeans totaled 217,000 acres for 1974 compared with 241,000 in the previous year. The yield of 20 bushels per acre was 5 bushels below 1973 and the lowest since 1967.

Hay production in 1974 totaled 10.6 million tons, nearly equal to the 1973 crop. First crop hay was heavy but dry weather reduced second and third crops in several areas. The 1974 tobacco crop of 17.6 million pounds was 7 percent under 1973. Fewer acres of tobacco were planted in 1974 and the early September frost further reduced harvested acreage.

The crop production index for 1974 averaged 118 percent of the 1957-59 period, slightly above 1973. Production was up for small grains, fruits, mint, potatoes, and processed vegetable crops such as peas, snap beans, beets, and cabbage. Declines in production were shown for corn, soybeans, tobacco, sweet corn, lima beans, cucumbers, and some fresh market vegetables.

Crop Summary of Wisconsin for 1974

Crop	Acreage			Yield per acre			Unit	Production		
	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974		1972	1973	1974
	Thousands							Thousands		
FIELD CROPS										
Corn for grain	2,143	2,090	2,270	95.0	83.0	68.0	Bu.	203,585	173,470	154,360
Oats	1,350	1,370	1,400	55.0	41.0	61.0	Bu.	74,250	56,170	85,400
Barley	22	21	19	45.0	37.0	47.0	Bu.	990	777	893
Rye	10	9	10	21.0	21.0	24.0	Bu.	210	189	240
Wheat (all)	29	27	78	31.1	33.0	36.6	Bu.	901	890	2,853
Winter	20	16	57	32.0	35.0	39.0	Bu.	640	560	2,223
Spring	9	11	21	29.0	30.0	30.0	Bu.	261	330	630
Soybeans for beans	145	241	217	28.0	25.0	20.0	Bu.	4,060	6,025	4,340
Potatoes (fall)	45.5	47.0	50.0	253	245	280	Cwt.	11,530	11,515	14,000
Tobacco (all)	10.8	10.2	9.4	1,731	1,859	1,875	Lb.	18,691	18,963	17,626
Type 54 (Southern)	5.0	4.9	4.7	1,685	1,950	1,925	Lb.	8,425	9,555	9,048
Type 55 (Northern)	5.8	5.3	4.7	1,770	1,775	1,825	Lb.	10,266	9,408	8,578
HAY AND FORAGE										
Hay (all)	3,920	3,950	3,950	2.60	2.69	2.68	Ton	10,203	10,622	10,600
Alfalfa and mixture	2,950	2,970	3,000	2.85	2.90	2.90	Ton	8,408	8,613	8,700
All other	970	980	950	1.85	2.05	2.00	Ton	1,795	2,009	1,900
VEGETABLE CROPS										
Carrots 1/	2.3	4.5	4.0	410	411	483	Cwt.	943	1,851	1,930
Cabbage 1/	5.3	5.4	5.8	320	300	320	Cwt.	1,676	1,621	1,856
Lettuce . . . . .	.9	1.1	1.1	210	250	200	Cwt.	189	275	220
Mint for oil	4.5	6.5	8.3	30	31	46	Cwt.	135	204	380
Onions, commercial 1/	1.5	1.4	1.3	250	280	280	Cwt.	375	392	364
For processing:										
Green lima beans	6.4	7.4	5.3	.82	.93	.94	Ton 2/	5.3	6.9	5.0
Peas	122.2	123.2	129.8	1.34	.99	1.33	Ton 2/	163.8	122.0	172.7
Snap beans	45.5	55.7	61.0	2.67	2.47	2.55	Ton	121.5	137.6	155.6
Sweet corn	113.5	132.6	118.1	4.54	3.85	3.83	Ton	515.3	510.5	452.3
Cucumber for pickles	9.0	10.4	11.4	4.77	4.91	3.91	Ton	43.0	51.1	44.6
Beets for canning	4.5	6.6	8.1	14.00	9.18	10.65	Ton	63.0	60.6	86.3
FRUITS, ETC.										
Apples, commercial	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lb.	65,000	50,000	65,000
Tart cherries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ton	5.2	2.4	5.4
Cranberries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bbl.	805	756	870
Strawberries	1.4	1.4	1.3	23	27	29	Cwt.	32	38	38

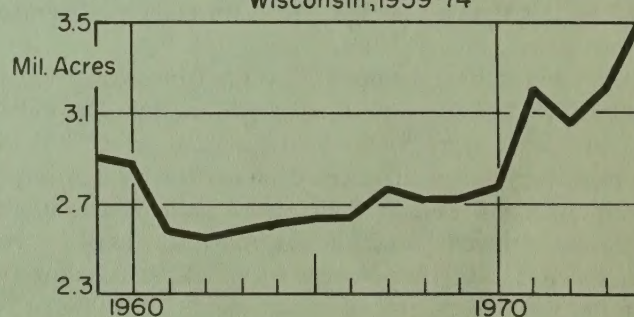
1/Includes portion processed. 2/Shelled.

CROP ACREAGE MAY DECLINE SLIGHTLY IN WISCONSIN

The acreage planted to the five major field crops surveyed may be down slightly in Wisconsin for 1975 due to a reduction in acreage of oats. Based on the January 1 survey, a total of 5,185,000 acres will be planted to corn, oats, soybeans, barley, and spring wheat in 1975. This would be 1 percent below the 5,232,000 acres planted to those crops in 1974.

Plantings of all corn in Wisconsin for 1975 are expected to equal the record high of 3,490,000 acres planted last year.

ALL CORN ACREAGE PLANTED Wisconsin, 1959-74



Farmers intend to increase soybean acreage to 240,000 acres in 1975, up 10,000 acres from 1974.

The January 1 intentions survey indicated that 1,410,000 acres will be sown to oats in 1975. This would be 4 percent less than last year and continues the downward trend in oat acreage that began in 1962.

Barley acreage for this year may total 23,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from 1974 and the first increase in four years.

Seedings of spring wheat in 1975 could equal the 22,000 acres planted in 1974. Wisconsin farmers planted 61,000 acres of winter wheat last fall which was also equal to the acreage sown in the fall of 1973.

Farmers in the major producing states plan to hold the 1975 planted acreage of corn near the level of 1974. In the 35 states surveyed, farmers intend to plant about 76 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1975. These states accounted for 98 percent of the Nation's corn acreage planted in 1974.

Soybean growers intend to plant 57 million acres of

beans for 1975 in the 27 states surveyed. If these intentions materialize, soybean acreage in 1975 would be up 8 percent from the acreage planted in 1974. The states included in the January Prospective Plantings Survey accounted for 99 percent of the Nation's planted acreage of soybeans in 1974.

The 33 states surveyed for planting intentions of oats indicated a decrease of 4 percent from the 17.9 million acres planted in 1974. These states planted about 99 percent of the Nation's oat acreage in 1974.

Seedings of spring wheat in 1975 are expected to be down 4 percent from 1974 but 10 percent more than was sown in 1973. The 9 states included in the survey planted practically all of the Nation's spring wheat acreage in 1974.

Plantings of barley in 1975 could be up 8 percent from last year based on the January intentions survey. Of the four leading barley producing states, North Dakota, Minnesota, and California indicated substantial increases in plantings from the previous year while Montana showed a decrease.

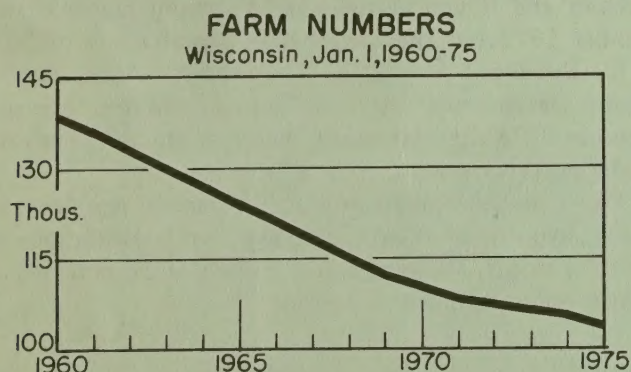
Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1975 Intentions
Compared with 1973 and 1974 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1973	1974	1975	Change from last year	1973	1974	1975	Change from last year
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Field corn	3,200	3,490	3,490	n. c.	70,694	76,451	76,132	n. c.
Oats 1/	1,500	1,470	1,410	- 4	18,925	17,891	17,252	- 4
Soybeans 2/	246	230	240	+ 4	56,163	53,031	57,106	+ 8
Barley 1/	22	20	23	+ 15	10,837	8,728	9,420	+ 8
Spring wheat	12	22	22	n. c.	12,721	14,596	14,007	- 4

1/U. S. total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Grown alone for all purposes.

FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE LOWER

The number of farms in Wisconsin as of January 1, 1975 was estimated at 104,000. This was a decline of 1,000 farms from a year earlier and the same rate of decline as in the previous three years. Farm numbers have not been decreasing as rapidly in the 1970's as they did in the 1960's when the annual drop was usually 3,000 farms. The number of farms in Wisconsin reached a peak of 200,000 in 1935 but have continued downward since then. Currently farm numbers are the lowest since 1870 when there were 103,000 farms in the State.



Land in farms totaled 19.5 million acres on January 1 this year, a decline of 100,000 acres from a year ago. The land in farms has also been declining at a slower rate in recent years. More than four million acres have gone out of farm land since 1942 when a high of almost 24 million acres

were in farm land in Wisconsin. During the past ten years, farm land has decreased by 9 percent while the number of farms was reduced by 16 percent.

As farm numbers declined, the average size of a Wisconsin farm increased from a low of 113 acres in 1925 to a high of 188 acres by 1975. Farm size has gained an average of 15 acres in the last ten years.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms
Wisconsin and United States, 1935-75 1/

Year	Wisconsin			United States 2/		
	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms
	Thous.	Acres	Mil. acres	Thous.	Acres	Mil. acres
1935	200	118	23.5	6,812	155	1,054.5
1940	193	119	22.9	6,097	174	1,060.9
1945	179	132	23.6	5,859	195	1,141.6
1950	174	136	23.6	5,648	213	1,202.0
1955	155	150	23.2	4,654	258	1,201.9
1960	138	161	22.2	3,963	297	1,175.6
1961	136	163	22.1	3,825	305	1,167.7
1962	133	165	22.0	3,692	314	1,159.4
1963	130	168	21.8	3,572	322	1,151.6
1964	127	170	21.6	3,457	332	1,146.1
1965	124	173	21.4	3,356	340	1,139.6
1966	121	175	21.2	3,257	348	1,131.8
1967	118	177	20.9	3,162	355	1,123.5
1968	115	179	20.6	3,071	363	1,115.2
1969	112	181	20.3	2,999	369	1,107.7
1970	110	183	20.1	2,954	373	1,102.8
1971	108	184	19.9	2,909	377	1,097.3
1972	107	185	19.8	2,870	381	1,093.0
1973	106	186	19.7	2,844	383	1,089.5
1974	105	187	19.6	2,830	384	1,087.8
1975 3/	104	188	19.5	2,819	385	1,086.4

1/Including Alaska and Hawaii. 2/Data prior to 1950 are from U. S. Agricultural Census. 3/Preliminary.

CATTLE ON FEED REMAIN DOWN SUBSTANTIALLY

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 23 major feeding states totaled 9,619,000 head on January 1 this year, a decline of 26 percent from a year ago and the fifth consecutive quarter that cattle on feed numbers were down. The current number on feed is the lowest total in the 23 states for January 1 since 1965.

Wisconsin cattle feeders had 135,000 head on feed January 1, just 1,000 less than a year earlier. Texas, the biggest cattle feeding state, had a sharp decline of 40 percent in the number on feed compared with a year ago. Other large cattle feeding states with considerable declines from January 1 last year were Iowa 30 percent, Nebraska 24 percent, Kansas 21 percent, Colorado 19 percent, and California 43 percent.

**Cattle and Calves on Feed by Quarters
January 1, 1975 with Comparisons 1/**

State	Jan. 1, 1973	Jan. 1, 1974	Oct. 1, 1974	Jan. 1, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 head				Percent
Arizona	655	609	348	319	- 48
California	1,181	1,209	965	688	- 43
Colorado	1,050	930	690	755	- 19
Idaho	205	172	186	185	+ 8
Illinois	585	530	350	500	- 6
Indiana	276	263	180	250	- 5
Iowa	1,922	1,715	1,030	1,200	- 30
Kansas	1,250	1,160	900	920	- 21
Michigan	245	220	155	200	- 9
Minnesota	494	464	320	380	- 18
Missouri	310	250	155	200	- 20
Montana	160	122	65	79	- 35
Nebraska	1,581	1,525	1,040	1,160	- 24
New Mexico	226	232	170	135	- 42
North Dakota	47	49	35	36	- 27
Ohio	300	280	148	290	+ 4
Oklahoma	272	292	212	232	- 21
Oregon	69	77	55	65	- 16
Pennsylvania	87	86	48	83	- 3
South Dakota	378	381	270	345	- 9
Texas	2,245	2,205	1,599	1,327	- 40
Washington	180	160	133	135	- 16
Wisconsin	143	136	98	135	- 1
23 States	13,861	13,067	9,152	9,619	- 26

1/Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 23 states during the last quarter of 1974 were down 20 percent from the comparable period in 1973. Wisconsin feeders placed 79,000 cattle and calves on feed in October - December 1974, an increase of 1,000 from that quarter a year earlier.

Marketings of fed cattle in the 23 states during the past quarter were down 14 percent from a year ago. Wisconsin marketings of fed cattle were down 24 percent from October - December 1973.

Cattle feeders in the 23 states intend to market 8 percent fewer cattle during the first quarter of 1975 compared with a year earlier. Expected marketings in Wisconsin for January - March 1975 could be down 4 percent from that period in 1974.

BUTTER PRODUCTION CONTINUES HIGHER

Butter production in the Nation during November

totalled 68 million pounds, up 13 percent from a year earlier. The Nation's butter output has been above the previous year since June. Wisconsin creameries produced 13 million pounds of butter during November, a gain of 6 percent from a year ago. Although Iowa's butter production for November was down 10 percent, Minnesota had an increase of 11 percent and all other states were 18 percent above November 1973.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Nov. 1973	Nov. 1974	Jan.-Nov. 1974	Change from last year	
				Nov.	Jan.-Nov.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	12,373	13,100	174,710	+ 6	+ 6
Minnesota	14,023	15,580	208,400	+ 11	+ 2
Iowa	2,545	2,300	37,810	- 10	- 33
Other states	31,364	36,984	441,567	+ 18	+ 4
United States	60,305	67,964	862,487	+ 13	+ 2
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	51,370	48,900	703,620	- 5	+ 6
Minnesota	22,794	19,445	241,590	- 15	+ 9
Missouri	4,822	3,143	71,148	- 35	+ 7
Other states	44,538	43,398	690,495	- 3	+ 19
United States	123,524	114,886	1,706,853	- 7	+ 11
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States	9,995	13,313	168,230	+ 33	+ 11
Swiss	5,091	4,815	63,406	- 5	n. c.
Brick and Muenster. . .	45,955	52,300	547,151	+ 14	+ 7
Italian	20,541	20,289	194,003	- 1	+ 3
All other	81,582	90,717	972,790	+ 11	+ 6
Total					
ALL CHEESE					
United States	205,106	205,603	2,679,643	n. c.	+ 10
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	54,138	52,534	631,719	- 3	- 11
Creamed 2/	68,789	66,374	797,802	- 4	- 11
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,143	1,100	15,895	- 4	+ 6
Illinois	3,170	3,150	42,980	- 1	+ 2
Iowa	605	760	8,255	+ 26	+ 8
Michigan	2,649	2,455	33,860	- 7	+ 3
Minnesota	2,364	2,105	24,535	- 11	- 15
Other states	44,259	46,082	604,080	+ 4	+ 1
United States	54,190	55,652	729,605	+ 3	+ 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

Cheese production in the Nation for November was about the same as a year earlier. Swiss cheese production was up a third and Italian cheese was 14 percent higher than in November 1973 but these were offset by declines of 5 percent for Brick and Muenster, 7 percent for American, and 1 percent for all other varieties. This was the first time since September 1973 that American cheese production was lower than the previous year.

Wisconsin dairy plants produced 5 percent less American cheese in November than a year ago, while Minnesota was down 15 percent, Missouri had a decline of 35 percent, and all other states dropped 3 percent.

MEAT STOCKS BELOW YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of 1974 were 5 percent below a year earlier. This was the first time that meat stocks in cold storage were under the previous

year since October 31, 1973:

Beef in cold storage at the end of December was down 12 percent from a year ago. Although beef stocks increased by 33 million pounds during December, the 392 million pounds in cold storage at the end of the month were 55 million pounds below December 31, 1973.

Pork stocks at the end of 1974 were 6 percent higher than a year earlier. Cold storage supplies of pork on December 31 totaled 303.5 million pounds, an increase of over a million pounds from the previous month and more than 17 million pounds above December 31, 1973.

**Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States**

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1972	Dec. 31, 1973	Nov. 30, 1974	Dec. 31, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	355,339	432,096	342,175	374,401	- 13
In cure and cured	11,778	15,696	16,873	18,040	+ 15
Total	367,117	447,792	359,048	392,441	- 12
Pork:					
Frozen	199,552	271,631	286,685	289,777	+ 7
In cooler	14,652	14,479	15,598	13,734	- 5
Total	214,204	286,110	302,283	303,511	+ 6
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	12,606	11,566	12,945	13,490	+ 17
Lamb and mutton, frozen	15,704	15,034	14,170	13,956	- 7
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	44,833	53,982	50,918	52,967	- 2
Other meats	15,838	15,209	13,408	13,977	- 8
Total, all meats	670,302	829,693	752,772	790,342	- 5

BUTTER PRODUCTION TO REMAIN UP WHILE CHEESE OUTPUT DECLINES

Based on weekly estimates, production of butter in the Nation during December could be up 29 percent from a year ago while output of cheese may decline 12 percent. Creameries in the Nation produced 13 percent more butter in November than a year earlier and production from January through November was 2 percent above that period in 1973. Churnings of butter in Wisconsin creameries during December were substantially higher than the previous year, following a 6 percent increase in November and the first 11 months of 1974.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
November	67,964	+ 13	+ 6	114,886	- 7	- 5
Jan.-Nov.	862,487	+ 2	+ 6	1,706,853	+ 11	+ 6
Weeks ending:						
Dec. 5	20,000	+ 34	+ 25	27,650	- 6	- 10
Dec. 12	19,150	+ 31	+ 28	26,800	- 8	- 5
Dec. 19	19,100	+ 30	+ 27	27,400	- 11	- 8
Dec. 26	19,900	+ 25	+ 35	29,400	- 16	- 14
Jan. 2	24,250	+ 25	+ 21	31,500	- 16	- 15
Total	102,400	+ 29	XXX	142,750	- 12	XXX

Weekly estimates for December indicate that American cheese production in the Nation may be down 12 percent from the previous year. Output in November was 7 percent below a year ago but total production of American cheese from January through November was 11 percent above those months in 1973. Wisconsin's production of American cheese in December was under a year earlier but output in the first 11 months of 1974 was 6 percent higher than that period last year.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION CONTINUES HIGHER

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during November was 3½ percent above a year earlier. Beef output was up 4 percent and pork production increased 3 percent from November 1973. Red meat production in Wisconsin has been higher than the previous year since September 1973.

The November cattle slaughter totaled 117,000 head, up 10,000 from a year ago. Average liveweight of cattle killed in November was 1,076 pounds, a decline of 58 pounds from the previous year.

Hog slaughter for November numbered 298,000, an increase of 12,000 from November 1973 but the average liveweight of 244 pounds was 4 pounds lighter than a year earlier.

There were 27,500 calves butchered in November, up 5,900 from the previous year. Calves averaged 136 pounds liveweight for November, down 13 pounds from a year ago. The sheep and lamb kill of 400 during November was 100 less than in November 1973.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	November		Change from last year	November	
	1973	1974		1973	1974
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	107.0	117.0	+ 9	121.4	125.9
United States 1/ . .	2,955.3	3,267.8	+ 11	3,116.8	3,298.6
Calves					
Wisconsin	21.6	27.5	+ 27	3.2	3.7
United States 1/ . .	206.7	330.4	+ 60	49.1	87.8
Hogs					
Wisconsin	286.0	298.0	+ 4	70.9	72.7
United States 1/ . .	6,933.8	6,787.0	- 2	1,707.8	1,657.0
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	.5	.4	- 20	.046	.037
United States 1/ . .	779.3	634.5	- 19	83.7	66.0

1/Excludes Alaska.

STEER PRICES LOWER IN DECEMBER

Prices of good grade fed steers at St. Paul and feeder steers at Kansas City, declined from November to December. Steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$34.06 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market during December, down \$1.16 from November and \$3.44 under a year ago. Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$22.14 a hundredweight at Kansas City in December, a decline of \$1.12 from the previous month and con-

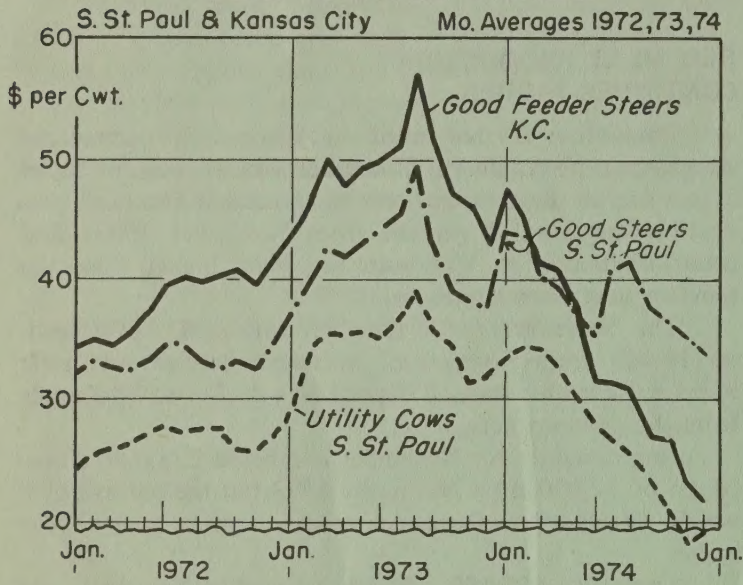
siderably below the December 1973 average of \$43.41 a hundredweight. This was the lowest feeder steer price for December in ten years.

Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$19.04 a hundredweight for December, up almost \$1.00 from November but down \$13.10 from a year earlier.

HOG MARKET UP

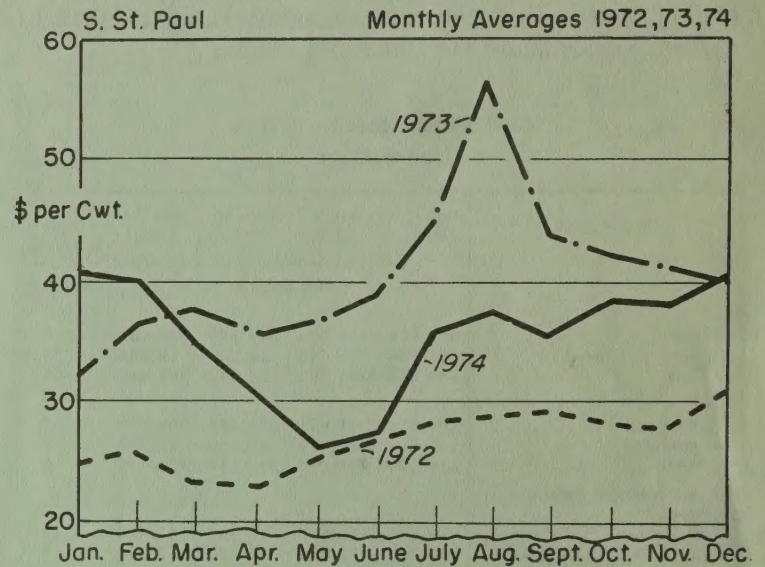
Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$40.06 a hundredweight during December, an increase of \$1.85 from November and 7 cents more than the previous year. Hog prices showed an increase each week during December.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES



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BARROW and GILT PRICES



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